CLAIMS:

1. A method for providing communication service comprising the steps of:

(a)   an intelligent peripheral receiving an alert message from a database unit, which message specifies a communication protocol parameter;

(b)   with reference to a database within said intelligent peripheral, establishing a connection between said database unit and said intelligent peripheral to operate in accord with a protocol pointed to by said protocol parameter,

(c)   communicating information between said database unit and said intelligent peripheral; and

(d)   communicating information between a switch and said intelligent peripheral over a bearer connection between them.

2.   A method for providing communication service comprising the steps of:

a switch sending information to a database unit;

in response thereto, said database unit sending a message to an intelligent peripheral specifying a communication protocol;

said intelligent peripheral perusing an internal database to determine parameters for establishing a connection in accord with said protocol;

said intelligent peripheral establishing a connection, and communicating, with said database unit pursuant to said protocol; and

said intelligent unit communicating with said switch over a bearer connection.

3. The method of claim 2 where said specification of said communication protocol by said database unit takes the form of specifying a parameter of a protocol that uniquely specifies a protocol, and operating parameter of said protocol.

4. The method of claim 2 where the connection between the intelligent peripheral and the database unit is via a signaling network.

5. The method of claim 2 where the connection between the database and the switch is over a signaling network

6. The method of claim 2 where said bearer connection is established following the establishment of said connection between the database and the intelligent peripheral

7. The method of claim 6 where said bearer connection is established in response to a message send by said switch to said intelligent peripheral.

8. The method of claim 7 where said message sent by said switch to said intelligent peripheral is following a message sent by said database unit to said switch.

9. The method of claim 6 where establishment of said bearer is initiated by said intelligent peripheral after receipt of said message from said database unit.

10. The method of claim 2 where said communicating between said intelligent peripheral and said database unit occurs after establishment of said bearer connection.

11. The method of claim 2 where said communicating between said intelligent peripheral and said database unit comprises said database unit informing said intelligent peripheral to perform a specified service.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of said intelligent peripheral performed said specified service and sending results to appropriate destination.

13. The method of claim 12 where said appropriate destination is said database unit.

14. The method of claim 12 where said appropriate destination is said switch.

15. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of said intelligent peripheral performed said specified service and sending results to said database unit via said switch.